

Once again it seems likely that all the caterpillars had fallen from the deciduous trees above .

At least one other species of this genus shows a predeliction for flowers as a food source. To quote Barrett (1899), *Amphipyra tragopoginis* (Clerck) is "very fond of the blossoms of garden flowers and apparently of yellow flowers whether cultivated or wild . . . I have noticed its liking for the handsome yellow blossoms of *Eschscholzia californica* (California poppy) in the hollow of which it will lie through the day and eat the petals at night". In confirmation of this a larva of this species was found (I.D.W.) feeding on the flowers of monkey-flower (*Mimulus guttatus* DC) at Bettisfield, Clwyd (grid ref. SJ466356). It would only eat the flowers and was the only insect found feeding on an extensive stand of the plant. The adult emerged successfully.

The small number of insect species which have managed to colonise rhododendron and other established alien plants indicates the potential interest in relatively large lepidopterans feeding on such plants. Further observations on this genus of moths might be of value in making any deductions concerning the biological implications of this behaviour.

#### References

- Barrett, C. G. (1899) *The Lepidoptera of the British Islands*, 5:254.  
Bretherton, R. F., Goater, B. and Lorimer, R. I. (1983) in Heath, J. (Ed.) *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, 10: 153-158.  
Fletcher, D. S., (1968) *Amphipyra pyramidea* (Linn.) and *A. berbera* Rungs (Lep., Noctuidae), two species confused *Ent. Gazette*, 19: 91-106.

---

THE BLOXWORTH SNOUT HYPENA OBSITALIS HBN. IN KENT — On 18th August 1985 I found a specimen of this rare moth in my m.v. trap, which I operate in my garden. This appears to be the ninth recorded British specimen and the first for Kent. On referring to J. M. Chalmers-Hunt's note (*Ent. Rec.* 95 (1983) p.126) I find that recent records — Scilly (1962) Dorset (1965) Sussex (1983) and now Kent (1985) indicate a spread eastwards. Does this mean a migration in each of these years, each in a more easterly direction or is the species established and spreading eastwards? If the latter it is surprising that it survived last winter. The food plant is given as nettle which is plentiful in various parts of the garden. The species hibernates in the perfect state and in Malta where the moth is very common, it is said to occur all the year round. (*Ent. Rec.* 95 (1983) p.74) G. H. YODEN, 18 Castle Avenue, Dover.